



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pennsylvania's Annual Red Meat Production Decreases 4 Percent in 2009

HARRISBURG, PA, May 3, 2010 --- Commercial red meat production in Pennsylvania during 2009 totaled 1,281.8 million pounds, dressed weight basis, down 4 percent from a year ago, according to the Pennsylvania Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Commercial cattle slaughter, at 928,500 head, was down 7 percent from last year. Of this number, 910,200 head were slaughtered in federally inspected plants. Beef production, at 1,152 million pounds live weight, was down 8 percent from 2008. Average live weight per head was 1,255 pounds, a decrease of 8 pounds per head from last year. Commercial calf slaughter, at 129,500 head, was down 19 percent from a year ago. Veal production, at 55.1 million pounds live weight, was down 7 percent from a year ago. Average live weight increased 56 pounds per head to 426 pounds. Commercial hog slaughter, at 3,008,300 head, was down less than 1 percent from last year. Of this number, 2,993,800 head were slaughtered in federally inspected plants. Pork production was 774.4 million pounds live weight, up just under 1 percent from 2008. Average live weight increased 2 pounds per head to 258 pounds. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 46,300 head, down 16 percent from last year. Of this number, 44,800 head were slaughtered in federally inspected plants. Lamb and mutton production was 4.54 million pounds live weight, down 15 percent from a year ago. The average live weight increased 1 pound to 98 pounds per head. Federally inspected goat slaughter, at 27,382 head slaughtered for the year of 2009 at 46 plants across Pennsylvania. There were an estimated 234 commercial slaughter plants in Pennsylvania on January 1, 2010, this is down from 245 a year ago. Eighty-nine of these plants were under federal inspection.

Nationally, red meat production in commercial plants and on farms totaled 49.4 billion pounds in 2009, 2 percent lower than the previous year. Beef production, at 26.1 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the previous year. Veal production totaled 147 million pounds, down 3 percent from last year. Pork production, at 23.0 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Lamb and mutton production totaled 177 million pounds, down 2 percent from 2008. There were 834 plants slaughtering under federal inspection in the U.S. on January 1, 2010, compared with 818 last year. Of these, 633 slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2009 with the 14 largest plants slaughtering 56 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 615 plants, with the 12 largest plants accounting for 55 percent of the total. Likewise, 6 of the 276 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 56 percent of the total and 4 of the 504 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2009 comprised about 67 percent of the total head. Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Texas accounted for 50 percent of the U.S. commercial red meat production in 2009, similar to 2008.

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